REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9-41 under 35 USC §102. Claims 33-35, 37, 39, 41 have been cancelled. Claims 42-47 have been added. Claims 9-32, 36, 38, 40, and 42-47 are now pending.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §102

Claims 9-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Draper et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,581,062 ('Draper' hereinafter). Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion.

The pending claims recite a type column for storing a type value associated with each row of the data structure OR storing a type value associated with each of the plurality of rows of the data structure in a type column. The type value indicates columns of the data structure associated with the corresponding row, thereby enabling the columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row. Moreover, as indicated in the newly added claims, the type value may also identify a row type for the corresponding row (e.g., which may be used to identify the columns for that row). It is important to note that the type column is separate from the columns identified by each type value stored in the type column. Thus, the claims relate to the structure or makeup of the data structure by identifying the columns of the data structure that correspond to a particular row of the data structure. In other words, each row of the same data structure may have a different set of associated columns. This is accomplished by associating a type value with each of the rows of the data structure, where the type value identifies the columns for the corresponding row. Applicant respectfully submits that Draper neither discloses nor suggests varying the columns of a data structure (e.g., table) among rows of the data structure.

Draper relates to storing semi-structured data in a structured manner. See title. Specifically, relational tables are used for the structured organization. See Abstract. A relational table is generally understood to include a set of columns and rows. Each row in the relational table has the same columns as the other rows in the relational table. For example,

the Examiner cites FIG. 3 of Draper, as well as column 4, lines 29-43 of Draper. As the Examiner points out, FIG. 3 illustrates a structured organization that includes four relational tables. As shown in FIG. 3, for each separate table, each row has the same columns and number of columns as other rows in the same table. For instance, the Examiner recognizes that table 62 includes one column each for storing identifiers of entities A, B, C, D, E, and G, and data for entities C and D. Similarly, table 64 includes one column each for storing identifiers for entities E and F, and data for entities F. Thus, the columns shown in Draper do not vary among rows of the same table and therefore a single data structure. While the four tables in combination form a "structured organization," the four tables are four distinct data structures. The columns of one of those data structures do not vary with the row of the data structure.

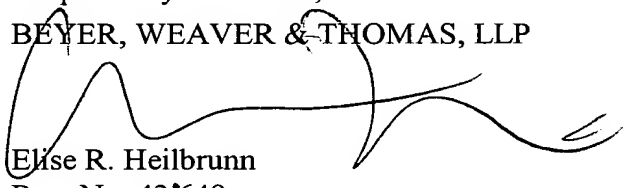
It is also important to note that Draper neither discloses nor suggests a type value, as claimed. Specifically, Draper neither discloses nor suggests a type column for storing type values, or storing a type value associated with each of the plurality of rows of a data structure in a type column, where the type value identifies columns of the data structure associated with the corresponding row, thereby enabling the columns for each of the plurality of rows to vary based upon the type value for that row. In fact, in the example shown in FIG. 3, Draper shows four separate tables, rather than defining a different set of columns for each row of the same table. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Draper fails to anticipate any of the pending claims.

As recited in newly added claims 45-47, the type values stored in the type column are not data elements, while the columns identified by the type values are adapted for storing data elements. In the example cited by the Examiner, the columns of the data structures of the cited patent are adapted for storing data. None of these columns is used to store type values, as claimed, which are not data elements.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited art. If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. ACTUP006).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER, WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



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